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U.S. FOREST SERVICE — FOREST INSECT LABORATORY — ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.
FORT COLLINS, COLORADO

NOV 6 1950

BUREAU OF ENTOMOLOGY & PLANT QUARANTINE U. S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

Wygant
Heard
Massey
McCambridge

Chief, Forest Service — October 31, 1950

C. OTTO LINDH, Regional Forester, By

S, CONTROL, Insect (Annual Report)
O (S), FINANCE, Estimates (Forest Pest Control)

Reference is made to Mason's memorandum of April 19, 1950 and to Granger's memorandum of May 3, 1950.

Attached are the reports on individual projects completed in 1950 and those proposed for 1951 numbered in order of priority. All are shown on a map of the region. In addition to those projects reported on individually, we have investigated barkbeetles in the spruce-fir type on the Carson, pine barkbeetles on the Cibola, sawfly on the Cibola and other spruce budworm infestations on the Santa Fe and Carson. We also plan to investigate further the pine barkbeetle attack on the Lincoln and a spruce budworm attack on the North Kaibab. We will report those results as soon as they are available.

Carson Fir Barkbeetle

The barkbeetle infestation in the spruce-fir type on the Carson is quite serious on the corkbark fir. However, the attack is in inaccessible country at the present and control does not seem justified at this time. There is a good chance that with the construction of a road to permit logging this area control could be had through the removal of infested and mature trees. Costs of this investigation were paid from contributed funds and amounted to $130.00.

Cibola Pine Barkbeetle

The attacks on the Cibola were widespread and mostly on mature trees. Usually the infestation was on poorer sites and probably increased due to early season drought Where possible, timber sales were made to salvage the material. In most cases little cutting has been done as yet, but plans have been made in all cases. Pre-control costs have amounted to $139.24 this calendar year which was contributed from 030 and BE&PQ funds.

Cibola Sawfly

The sawfly infestation is a hold-over from a rather severe attack in 1949. Its intensity has decreased materially this year and no control methods are contemplated at this time. Costs incurred in following the infestation during 1950 are $76.48 and were paid from 020 funds.

Santa Fe-Carson Spruce Budworm

In addition to the proposed project on the Santa Fe, large areas in the mixed conifer and spruce-fir types are infested on both the Santa Fe and Carson. These infestations are heavy and of several years' duration. Some threaten rather valuable stands of timber, but all are in inaccessible territory and some are in Wild or Wilderness Areas. For these reasons, they have not been considered in this year's control projects. Should they continue in intensity equal to present attacks, they must be treated soon, however. Costs incurred this year are about $75.00, which were paid from 020 funds.

Lincoln Pine Barkbeetle

An individual report has been made on this project, but probably should be clarified some. The BE & PQ does not feel that they have sufficient information on the insects or their control to launch a large project. They plan to do some investigation work with the more promising insecticide formulae this fall which will help somewhat. They feel that before they can accurately prescribe for the control they must know more of the biology of the insects. This will require considerable study. At present, it is felt that the life cycles must be followed at least a year. This is just one of many outbreaks every few years within the pine type and we feel that this study is most important in order that these attacks may be handled more promptly and before they become so widespread.

North Kaibab Spruce Budworm

Dr. Orr's report on insects in general did not mention budworm attacks. However, S. T. Carlson, Park Service Forester at their Regional Office, is a fairly well trained entomologist and has prepared a report on the infestation on the Grand Canyon Park and advised us that it extends into the forest. He would like to carry out a joint control project to eliminate danger of increased attacks resulting in weakened trees and thus, eventually, spruce barkbeetle attacks. The Park Service would like to have the work done next spring.

Drs. Wygant and Wilford of BE & PQ were in Albuquerque on October 30 to make plans to investigate this infestation more fully. They plan to make a complete report as soon as field work is completed. Should their report recommend immediate action, we would like to give it the priority indicated. It is planned to make the survey beginning November 2.

Gila Pine Barkbeetle

In the course of other work, three areas of Dendroctinus-Ips infestation were found on the Gila. Two of these were within or close to active sales. The infested trees within an active sale were cut immediately, and all material over 8" dbh was taken to the mill where it went through the saw, and all slabs, edgings, and dust were burned. The area outside active sale boundaries was covered by an emergency sale except that in Railroad Canyon. This latter pocket is rather isolated, the timber is of poor form, and no mill man could be interested in salvage operations. There is little danger to other stands as yet, and the quality of the timber is too poor to make expensive control methods practical. We will continue to watch the infestation, however.

It is obvious from this report that our insect problems are becoming greater and more widespread each year. Our losses are considerable and we cannot begin to reduce them, in line with present forest management plans, until methods of control are definitely known to facilitate immediate action. To determine these answers and give advice on the many problems coming each year requires the services of a trained entomologist most of the year. Dr. Wygant's office has done its best to take care of our needs, but their location and resulting travel preclude any attempt at solving any biological problems and greatly hinder close follow-up control work. Also, the limit of their present personnel to take on more work has been exceeded already. Our problems this year have pointed out more than ever the need for a full-time entomologist in this region. In addition to Forest Service needs, there are continuous inquiries from the Indian Service, Park Service, and private individuals for entomological advice. For these reasons, we strongly recommend that every means be taken to get the BE & PQ to station a well trained entomologist in the region, preferably at Albuquerque. He might well be attached to Dr. Wygant's office to facilitate organizational difficulties, but should reside in the region to be available to all agencies at all times. We know that he would never lack work.

Enclosures

A. A. McCutchen

cc-Dr. Wygant